The increase in prices of vebetables can be attributed to imbalance between demand for and the supply of commodities, the imperfections in the marketing system of perishable commodities created by fluctuations in production, trade practices, transport bottlenecks, etc. The general inflationary trend in the country also affected the market sentiments.

(c) In order to control the excessive fluctuation in the prices of vegetables, the Government has undertaken both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term measures include the sale of vegetables at fixed prices through Government agencies. As a long-term measure the Government has launched a central sector scheme to increase the production of vegetables in the country.

PROJECTS UNDER THE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

3297. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects under the Agricultural Development Programmes proposed to be taken up for implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the next three years; and

(b) how much amount is proposed to be spent on each of those projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Development Project (ADP) proposals are not received from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. At present, Haryana is in preliminary stage of project formulation.

(b) Question does not arise.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

3298. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICLUTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the requirement of foodgrains in the country during the year 1993-94; and

(b) what is the target fixed for production during the current year and what is the share of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The requirement of foodgrains at a given point of time depends on various factors like levels of production, population, income, availability of substitutes etc. The per capita availability of foodgrains for the year 1993 has been provisionally estimated at 465.6 gms. per day.

(b) The foodgrains production target has been fixed at 188 million tonnes during the current year. The share of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the total targetted production of the country is 10.45 per cent, 5.29 per cent and 20.03 per cent respectively.

ARTIFICIAL RAINS

3299. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the steps taken for making artificial rains during the last three years together with the results achieved;

(b) what are the future plan in that regard and the details of the area of land proposed to be covered in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a separate cell under the Agriculture

Ministry to implement the scheme and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, has not undertaken, on its own, any artificial rain operations in the recent past, but has been providing technical assistance/information on cloud seeding to State Governments for their operational programmes whenever such requests are received from them.

The results of cloud seeding experiments conducted in many countries including India have so far been varying and the technology is considered to be, by and large, in the 'research state'. As such, Govt. of India has, presently, no plans to produce artificial rains on an operational basis.

PRODUCTION OF MUSHROOMS IN THE COUNTRY

3300. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total production of mushrooms in the country;

(b) what is the share of domestic consumption and export;

(c) what is the units value realisation, in both cases;

(d) what is the cost of production;

(e) what steps are taken to encourage mushroom cultivation; and

(f) what are the details, thereof, statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Official estimates on production of mushrooms are not available. However as per rough estimates 12,000 tonnes of white button mushrooms are produced in the country.

(b) The share of domestic consumption and export is approximately 84 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

(c) Unit of realisation in domestic consumption is 1=1.5—2 and export is 1=1.75.

(d) The cost of production of white button mushroom is ranging from Rs. 10-18 per kg depending upon the technology adopted.

(e) and (f) Steps taken to encourage mushroom cultivation are :—

(i) To promote mushroom cultivation a Central Sector Scheme is being implemented with an outlay of Rs. 1000 lakh during the VIII plan, for establishing spawn production units, pasteurised compost units and training of the farmers. Details are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(ii) Indian Council of Agriculture Research is operating All India Coordinated Mushroom Improvement Project at coordinated centre in Pune, Ludhiana, Coimbatore, Raipur, Pant Nagar, Faizabad, Udaipur besides establishing National Centre for mushroom research and training, Solan which are engaged in research, training, guidance for cultivation and spawn supply.

(iii) Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is also providing assistance under its schemes for development of export oriented production and export of horticultural products which include mushroom also.